INTERPELLATION.

6. III. (*a*) Are the Government aware of the probable results on Travancore trade, of the proposed Cochin Harbour?

(*b*) What steps have the Government taken to protect the interests of Travancore trade?

Mr. S. Adam Sait.

7. I. (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state what the total number of public servants of this State who draw a monthly pay of Rs. 20 or above is? How many of them are Mahomedans?

(*b*) How many qualified Mahomedans applied for Government service during the last three years, and how many of these were appointed?

(*c*) What action, if any, have Government taken regarding the representations made at the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly that Government Circulars which directed preferential treatment being given to qualified Mahomedan applicants, have not been duly carried out by some of the Heads of Departments?

8. II. Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have taken or intend taking any action on the representations made by the Members of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly and the public regarding the extension of the Railway to some central part of the town of Trivandrum and regarding the necessity for fixing suitable timings and keeping in reserve extra carriages at Trivandrum to provide for sufficient accommodation with a view to avoid the present unnecessary expenses and difficulties undergone by the people?

9. III. Will the Government be pleased to state whether they intend granting any famine allowance to Government servants, at least to those drawing a pay of Rs. 20 or below in consideration of the high prices of commodities prevailing at present?

Mr. G. Parameswaran Pillai.

10. I. (*a*) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the fact that the unprecedented fuel scarcity in the principal towns and generally throughout the State, as well as the great rise in the price of fuel, has resulted in acute suffering to the people?

ANSWER.

Secretary Mr. S. Parameswara Aiyar.

(*a*) and (*b*). Government are satisfied after due enquiry that the development of the Cochin Harbour will not in any way adversely affect the interests of Travancore.

Secretary Mr. S. Parameswara Aiyar.

The total number of public servants drawing a monthly pay of Rs. 20 and above is 4,744. Information in regard to the second portion of the Member's question is not available.

Government are not in possession of the information.

The attention of Heads of Departments has been once again drawn to the instructions of Government on the subject.

Chief Secretary Mr. N. Rajaram Row.

The extension of the Railway to some central part of the town of Trivandrum will be considered by Government. The question of renewing the day service in view to provide the necessary convenience to passengers is under correspondence with the Railway Company. The Company have written to Government that they have made arrangements to remedy the inconvenience due to insufficient accommodation.

Financial Secretary Mr. K. George.

The question of granting a scarcity allowance to low-paid Government servants is engaging the attention of Government. Orders will be issued shortly.

Chief Secretary Mr. N. Rajaram Row.

Government are not aware of any unprecedented scarcity of firewood throughout the State.

Temporary difficulties in getting firewood in the town of Nagercoil and a portion of the town of Trivandrum were brought to the notice of Government. The Forest Department maintains depots in these towns for sale to the public of firewood supplied by contractors engaged for the purpose. There was shortage, for a temporary period, in the supply owing to difficulty in transport and failure of the contractors. The Conservator reports that efficient arrangements have since been made for adequate supply, and that the public do not resort to the depots, as they obtain firewood in large quantities in the open market.

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INTERPELLATION.	ANSWER.
(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state the result of any inquiries they have made as to the causes which have led to this rapid and unforeseen rise in the price of fuel and the scarcity thereof ?	Government have not made any special enquiries.
(*c*) What steps have the Government taken or propose to take to bring down without delay the price of fuel and to provide supplies of fuel adequate for the needs of domestic consumption ?	(*c*), (*d*), (*e*) and (*g*). To ensure continuance of adequate supply to the town of Trivandrum, the tree-growth on 700 acres of unreserved lands near Nedumangad has been sold. As regards the Nagercoil depot, efficient and satisfactory arrangements are reported to have been made. Large quantities of firewood from private lands are also, it is reported coming in.
(*d*) Are Government aware that there is a wide-spread popular feeling that the shortage and phenomenal rise in price of fuel are due to the absence of due provision in the Forest Department and of a definite and continuous policy in regard to the development and exploitation of the fuel resources of the State ?	Government, however, are not generally, in favour of maintaining firewood depots and thus competing with private enterprise in the matter. Firewood trade is neither a monopoly nor a duty of Government. In British India and other places, the sale of firewood is not undertaken by Government. The Conservator of Forests is prepared to make arrangements for the sale of tree-growth on large areas to enable purchasers to start firewood depots. Such depots will greatly help in keeping the market rate at its level.
(*e*) Is it a fact that, on account of the failure of Government to provide the market with an adequate supply of fuel, virtual monopolies have been created in favour of people who have been working fuel from registered Puthuvals, and other private estates ?	Government have no information on the point.
(*f*) Is it a fact that the imposition of export duty on fuel has not resulted in any appreciable reduction in the price thereof ?	
(*g*) Will Government be pleased to enquire into the circumstances above set forth and publish the results of their enquiries in order to allay popular apprehensions ?	
11. II (*a*). Will Government be pleased to place before the Council a statement showing the number of Travancore Secondary School Leaving Certificate students qualified to enter on Intermediate Course at the commencement of the last three academic years and the number actually admitted in each of these years in Travancore Colleges ?	*Secretary Mr. S. Parameswara Iyer.* The appended statement gives particulars of the number of English School Leaving Certificate holders declared eligible for admission to Colleges at the commencement of the last three academic years, and the number actually admitted in each of these years in the several Colleges, both departmental and aided, in Travancore.
(*b*) Are the Government aware that there is a wide-spread feeling that a very large proportion of Travancoreans are obliged to seek admission in institutions outside the State because they are unable to get admission in Travancore ?	Of those who are eligible for admission, some do not enter on a College course, others go to Colleges outside Travancore where provision is made for instruction in Natural Science (Group I4. Intermediate), and yet others seek certain Missionary institutions outside the State where special concessions are afforded to them. After the numbers under these three heads are eliminated, there is still a residue of eligibles who resort to Colleges outside Travancore for study, because they are unable to obtain admission in the Colleges within the State. The number of those pupils is not as large as ordinarily estimated. Government are aware of the public feeling in this matter, but they consider that much of the feeling is not founded on a correct knowledge of facts.

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